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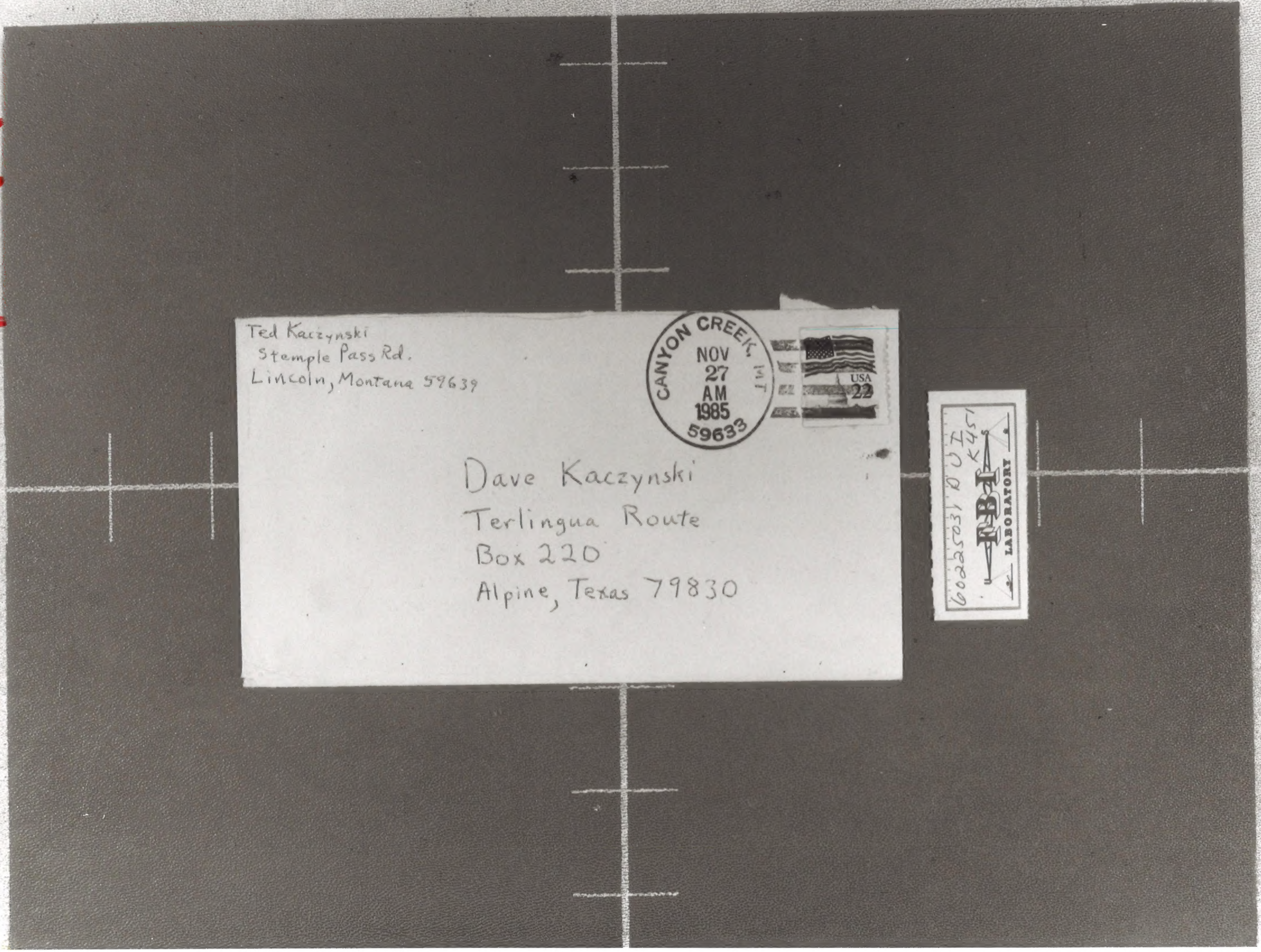
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Dear Dave:

Spanish passage: Cuando estaba yo en la escuela secundaria, escuché este chiste: Se pregunta: "¿Has tenido jamás un coño[1] alrededor de tu cuello?" Por supuesto, el interrogado contesta, "¡Que no!" Y la respuesta es: "Entonces, debiste de nacer por el culo[2] de tu madre."

¿Te parece imposible? ¡No lo es! Por asombroso que sea, hace muchos años que leí del caso extraordinario de una mujer que sí parió a dos nenes por el culo. Su vagina terminaba sin salida a una o dos pulgadas de la abertura, y por eso su marido solía joderla[3] en el culo. Resultó que la parte de la vagina que salía del útero, en lugar de juntarse con la otra parte de la vagina, se juntaba con el recto. De esta manera, la mujer llegó a estar encinta, y, como dije más arriba, parió a dos nenes perfectamente sanos, por el culo.

By the way, in your letters I notice you've repeatedly referred to "white people" as opposed to Mexicans. Don't do that in the presence of Mexicans. According to that book on Mexican-Americans that I sent you, they don't like being considered as nonwhite. I don't really think of them as nonwhite, myself. The ones I've seen look as if they have more Spanish than Indian blood, though it's true that most Mexicans do have a greater or lesser amount of Indian blood.

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1 Por si acaso no aparece esta palabra en tu diccionario, equivale a "cunt".

2 Culo = ass or asshole.

3 joder = fuck

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I'm glad to hear you're progressing with Spanish. (2)
I bet you'll enjoy exploring the literature. Maybe when we visit Mexico we can find a bookstore in Ojinaga or someplace and get some Mexican books. I have a catalog from the publishing company Espasa-Calpe of Madrid. They publish a "Collección Austral" which is a series of relatively inexpensive paperback editions of old and modern classics. They have some interesting titles. I've ordered books from them a couple of times, and enjoyed many of the books. Some time if you're interested I can send you the catalog on loan if you want to order some books. Only trouble is, they give no information about the books except author and title, so often you don't know exactly what kind of book you're buying and have to trust to luck as it were.

I will make every posible effort to get to Alpine on Jan 25. Only a really serious obstacle will delay me till Feb. 1.

Besides pederasty and blood transfusions, I've read that AIDS can be transmitted by "ingestion of semen" (I suppose as a result of cock sucking) and by normal sex between man and women. Apparently women get it from men more easily than vice versa, but transmission in either direction can occur. I just hope you can't get it in a public toilet, I mean if some queer jags off in there and gets his jizz-juice on the seat or something. If I have to take a shit travelling down to Texas there, I'll do it standing up.

The following somehow strikes me as humorous. From Herbert J. Spinden, <u>A Study of Maya Art</u>, Dover Publications, New York, 1975, Page 160: "Probably the earliest stela at Copan is that which has been numbered 15 (Plate 23, fig. 2). This valuable monument has been broken in two pieces in recent years and now adorns the entrance to a pig-pen ..."

Just got your latest letter. Yes, you may send me a book for Christmas.

I don't in the least agree with your opinions about

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Somersault Maugham. I certainly see no suggestion in his writing that he had any sense of having lost something precious of the sort you indicate. Also, I venture to suggest that your criteria for appraising literary works may be somewhat narrow. It is possible to appreciate a fine piece of writing, in a somewhat detached way, even though it does not address itself to one's own psychological needs, and even though one's personal taste runs to a very different kind of writing. As for myself, I have a high opinion of _some_ of Maugham's writing.

But anyway, I'm glad you liked the Quiroga story.

By the way, you said you were going to let me know what parts of a camping kit you can lend me, so that I'll know what to bring, but as yet I've heard nothing from you on that subject.

Yes, I'd very much like to speak Spanish with you when I get there. I can use the practice. Though I've done a lot of _writing_ in Spanish, _conversing_ in it is another matter. Also, I haven't been getting much practice lately even with writing it. After a while one gets tired of making up some nonsense just to have something to write in Spanish. Moreover, I notice that if one writes for a while on subjects of a certain kind, one gets puffed up with self-confidence at the ease with which one uses the language; but then when one switches to subjects of a very different kind one finds oneself constantly groping for the right words. Thus, practice with a wide variety of topics is very desirable.

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¿Te he dicho alguna vez que, según la mitología griega, Hércules una vez jodió a cincuenta mujeres en una noche? (4)

Si alguna mujer anhela un "caballero vestido de armadura reluciente", infórmala del caso del qual he leído dos veces en distintos libros. Dicho caso pretende mostrar lo que sucedía a las mujeres medievales que no sabían acatar a su marido. La mujer de un cierto caballero medieval ofendió a su esposo riniéndole. Agotada la paciencia de caballero, derribó a su esposa a un golpe, luego le asestó coces en la cara hasta que su belleza quedó estropeada para siempre. Eso es la verdadera "caballería" — o digamos "chivalry", ya que la palabra inglesa es algo más específica que la española.

By the way, speaking of Spanish, did I mention to you that, since learning that language, I've noticed that almost every English-speaking author who inserts Spanish words or phrases in his book butchers the language? The culprits aren't just two-bit hacks, either; they include such distinguished writers as Joseph Conrad, Ernest Hemingway, Willa Cather, and Edna Ferber. It's so disgusting because most of the errors are such as could be avoided by simply taking the trouble to look up a word in a Spanish and English dictionary. No advanced knowledge of Spanish would be necessary to avoid the great majority of these mistakes.

He aquí una buena idea para ti: Enviar a Willie Nelson una copia del cuento "El potro salvaje" de Horacio Quiroga.

— Ted

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